

PINE RIDGE SALVAGE TIMBER SALE

September 18, 2006 Land Board

Location of Sale:

- Southern Land Office (SLO) – Approximately 35 air miles northeast of Billings Montana
- Yellowstone and Bighorn Counties – Sections 15, 16, 22, T2N, R31E
Section 16, T2N, R32E
Sections 16, 36, T3N, R32E
- 100% Common School Trust.

Sale Volume & Estimated Value:

- The estimated volume is 17,490 tons (2,332 MBF) with an estimated minimum value of \$87,450.00.
- Of the 17,490 tons 13,305 tons (1,774 MBF) is fire killed salvage volume and 4,185 tons (558 MBF) is green.
- In addition to the stumpage value, a fee of \$.40/ton for Forest Improvement will be charged for all merchantable sawlog timber harvested.
- 7.5 tons/MBF is the conversion factor.

Sale & Harvest Treatments:

- The sale contains 5 harvest units totaling 1,374 acres.
- Silvicultural prescriptions for the salvage area include the following: In areas of stand replacement fire, salvage harvest of all fire killed ponderosa pine that meet the minimum merchantability specifications (16' log to an 8" top). In areas where the fire was an under burn or of mixed severity, dominant and codominant trees will be retained on a 30'–50' spacing. Leave trees must have greater than 50% green crown. 1,221 acres are in stand replacement and mixed severity treatment areas and 153 acres are in the under-burned areas.
- No old growth would be harvested.

Harvest System:

- 100% tractor

Road Construction:

- Approximately 10 miles of temporary spur road would be constructed to access the harvest units. Temporary spur roads would be ripped and seeded to native grass species at the completion of use.
- All temporary spur roads, existing roads on state land, and private access roads would be constructed and maintained to current BMP requirements.

Public Involvement & Issues:

- DNRC sent scoping letters on August 4, 2006 to lessees, adjacent landowners, and other interested parties. Public involvement was also solicited through notices published in the Billings *Gazette* from August 5 through August 13. Four written comments and two phone calls were received and used to identify issues and concerns. DNRC specialists were also consulted. Issues identified were the potential for increased sediment, water quality, road use, and access.

Issues and Mitigations:

- **Streams** – Several class III intermittent streams have been identified and the appropriate mitigations measures, including restriction zones, are being implemented in the sale design and through the timber sale contract.
- **Road Use/Access** - Access to the sale area is across existing roads through private property. The DNRC has secured a signed temporary road use agreement with the private landowners. The purchaser will be responsible for all stipulations, fees and requirements of the temporary road use agreement.

The Director recommends the Land Board direct the Department to sell the Pine Ridge Salvage Timber Sale.